

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 5, and canceled Claim 6. Claims 1-9 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 5 are independent claims.

In the recent Office Action dated February 17, 2005 the Examiner rejected Claims 2, 3, and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant has amended Claims 2, 3, and 4 to correct the language so that there is proper antecedent bases. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2, 3, and 4, as amended, meet the specific requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner indicated that Claims 5 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims. Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 6. Applicant has also amended independent Claim 5 by incorporating the limitations of independent Claim 1 with the allowable subject matter of Claim 5. Applicant respectfully submits that for at least these reasons, amended independent Claims 1 and 5 and dependent Claims 2-4, and 7-9 are allowable over the prior art applied of record.

Applicant has amended Claims 1 by incorporating the allowable subject matter of Claim 6, and rewritten allowable Claim 5 in independent form. Having been indicated allowable, Applicant respectfully submits that for at least this reason, Claims 1-5 and 7-9 are allowable over the prior art applied of record.

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The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), as being anticipated by Draves. The Examiner rejected Claims 3, 4, 8, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Draves or Draves in view of Berger. These rejections are respectfully traversed. However, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 5 in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully submits that the instant claims are patentable over the cited and applied prior art of record.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard C. Litman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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RCL:DHT:wse